

Little Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.

Sta. 54

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Little Creek, DE 19961

Standard Operating Guideline- 98-03 Response to Bomb Threats

Purpose: This standard is designed to outline guidelines for emergency response to Bomb Threats.

Scope: All fire department personnel.

1. Bomb Threats will be run as a structural response.
2. The Officer in Charge will assemble all responding personnel and brief them of the situation as it is known.
3. The Officer in Charge in conjunction with the proper Police agency will designate a staging area and will have all apparatus respond to the staging area. Note: The station may be used as a staging area, in which case the Officer in Charge will hold all personnel at the station until further information is obtained.
4. Accountability of all personnel will be taken.
5. DO NOT transmit on the fire radio, this may activate an explosive device.
6. Once on scene, evacuation, if not already decided upon prior to arrival, will be discussed openly between authorities and the management/occupants of the structure.
7. Search and rescue will be coordinated between the Officer in Charge and the other authorities on scene.
8. All search teams will consist of at least three personnel.
9. Discovery of any suspicious package or possible device will be immediately reported to the On-Scene Commander, who will order the evacuation of the structure and its surrounding area.
10. Evacuation of search teams will be in the form of whistles or sounding of apparatus horns.
11. Should a bomb explode or an incendiary device is detonated, the Officer in Charge should consider that a second explosive device may exist and that any possible evidence should be preserved.

12. Priority of operations will be as follows:
 - a. Rescue of victims. Prior to entering a search area, all search team members will become familiar with a specific search plan, including the overall objective, a designation of the search area, etc. This may require a brief conference among members before entering the search area to develop and communicate the plan. Search activities shall be conducted by teams of no less than 3 people.
 - b. Exposures will be protected. Exposure fires will be confined and extinguished. Exposure structures will be assessed for structural damage and potential collapse. The City/County Inspections department building inspectors may be called upon to assist with assessments.
 - c. Fires in the primary structure will be confined and extinguished.

13. In the event of structural collapse, the Incident Commander will contact, as necessary, the following:
 - a. The electric, waters, and gas companies, to shut off the utilities.
 - b. Public Works, Del DOT, and contractors for special equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, cranes, welding and cutting equipment, etc.
 - c. The City and County building inspectors for structural assessments.
 - d. Mutual aid fire departments for heavy rescues and manpower.

14. In the event of mass casualties, alert additional EMS units and the Medical Examiners Office if needed.

15. Media relations will be handled by the Police Department's Public Information Officer. A media staging area will be established by the Police Department on the perimeter.

16. Consider use of the Red Cross and other organizations for any displaced occupants.

17. Also consider use of the Critical Incident Stress Team especially if casualties have been encountered during the incident.

18. Once the Fire Department Operations have been completed, the Fire Department Incident Commander will turn the scene over to the Police Department.

19. **Ensure all actions are documented.**

Note: If the incident is in the City of Dover, refer to the attached City of Dover Bomb Threat Procedures.